

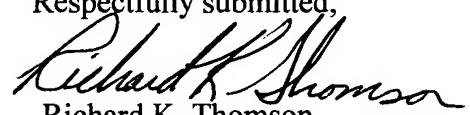


Remarks

Careful consideration has been given the Official Action dated March 18, 2005 in preparing this amendment. Reconsideration of Claims 3 and 4 is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

In rejecting Claims 1 and 2, the Examiner indicated that if Claim 3 was rewritten in independent form, it would be allowed. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and their limitations included in original Claim 3 placing it in independent form and, presumably, in condition for allowance. Early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited. It is requested that the requirement to amend the drawings be held in abeyance until Applicant's undersigned representative responds to the notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard K. Thomson
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 29,032

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that this amendment to the above identified application entitled "Retainer Sleeve for Transmission Gear Axle" is being deposited with the United States Postal Service addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mailstop Non-Fee Amendment, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 with adequate first class postage on the date shown.

Signed Richard K. Thomson Date 06/10/05